

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 3, 1879

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Canada, March 3rd, 79. (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 1509 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, D. C. U. S.) My dear Al.,

Thanks for your congratulations which arrived on Saturday. I hope mine to you will be duly received today. You have the loving wishes of every relative to cheer you in passing the new milestone in the journey of life. May you pass a long line of them in comfort and hope! I was glad to receive at last, the assignment which was forwarded by Mr. Williams a few days ago. I was especially pleased to find by your telegram that all was going on satisfactorily in re Patents. Our opponents here are doing all they can to create an adverse public feeling. Last week our Toronto Agent wrote that a rumour was current there that you had lost your case! I have no information yet as to the time when the Canada suits will be brought into Court. Our expectation is next month. You will no doubt be required here then. Let me know anything that I should communicate to our Solicitors. I have an important negotiation in hand with the Dominion Telegraph Company, to make them our Agents throughout Canada. I go this Afternoon to Hamilton, to revise with the Managing Director (Mr. Swinyard) the draft of Articles of Agreement 2 which I sent in shortly after my return from Kingston. The Board of Directors meets at Toronto on Tuesday and I go there with Mr. Swinyard. The arrangement will therefore probably be completed tomorrow. We are starved by Mr. Williams' dilatoriness in providing material for Telephones. You know that for a time we are dependent on his supply. Since we began the manufacture here we have only had material for 200 Hand Telephones (none for boxes) and at present we are unable to fill any orders. The Dominion Telegraph Co. will require a large number much faster than we can make them, and we have been writing almost daily to Mr. Williams for some weeks past. Do hurry him up when you have opportunity. Can you devise a small and very cheap Telephone for use in Hotels, as wall fixtures in every room? The Dominion Tel. Co.

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think a large business might be done with them if they could be leased at a low enough rate. We are very desirous to get your form of carbon transmitter. Have you nothing of the sort we could use, or show , to silence the Edisonians here? Our chief protection against opposition in Canada lies in the cheapness of our rates of leasing. I reduced the terms immediately on the Mont. Tel. Co. announcing their agency for the rival Telephones. That I believe cut the ground from beneath their feet, for they have done little or no business. I have been pining for information from you. Keep me supplied with all necessary items, if only at the rate of five minutes a week. 3 With dearest love to Mabel, Elsie and yourself, I am,

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell. P. S. In passing through Stratford from Kingston, Papa had photographs taken of me, cabinet size, to match that of his. I wished to send you a copy in this letter but the photographer has not yet sent them home. Papa thinks it a very good likeness. I will forward one as soon as we receive them. E. G. B.